

RULE 1.02 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULES

These rules take effect on July 1, 2007, and shall supersede all rules heretofore adopted by the court. (Revised effective 7/1/07)

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RULE 2.03 VENUE OF EACH DIVISION

The venue of each division of the court shall embrace the geographical area of the County of Ventura, except as follows:

A. All small claims hearings and trials shall be heard in the division of the court nearest defendant's residence at the time of the commencement of the action; or, if based on a contract, also in the division nearest the place where the contract was entered into.

B. All family law and general civil (**including** limited Unlawful Detainer cases) hearings and trials shall be heard in the division of the court nearest the proper venue based upon the criteria set forth in the Declaration for Court Assignment form. Plaintiff shall complete the Declaration for Court Assignment form which is to be filed with the first document. East County Division general civil and family law filings (with one specified exception) will be based upon the following Zip Code designations:

91301	
91302	91360
91304	91361 <u>Excluding Civil</u>
91307	91362
93020	91363
93021	91377
93062	
93063	
93064	
93065	

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(Revised effective 7/1/07)

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RULE 2.04 COURT EMPLOYMENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

A. **ADOPTION OF CODE.** This rule shall constitute the court's Conflict of Interest Code as required by Government Code section 87300, and hereby incorporates by reference California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 18730 ("Standard Code") and any amendments to it.

B. **PLACE OF FILING STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST.** Pursuant to Section 4(c) of the Standard Code, designated employees shall file a statement of economic interest with the Executive Officer and Clerk of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura.

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C. **APPENDICES TO THE STANDARD CODE.** The Superior Court of California, County of Ventura adopts the following appendices to the Standard Code: (Revised effective 7/1/07)

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APPENDIX I: - DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR OR CONSULTANT CLASSIFICATIONS

Position	Disclosure Category
Executive Officer and Clerk	1,2
Assistant Executive Officer	1,2
Deputy Executive Officer	1,2
▼	
Applications Services Manager	1,2
Court Technology Officer	1,2
Director, Facilities Management	1,2
Director, Finance & Planning	1,2
Director, Fiscal Services	1,2
Director, Human Resources	1,2
Infrastructure Services Manager	1,2
Manager, Staff Development	1,2
Managing Attorney	1,2
Principal Budget Analyst	1,2
Program Manager	1,2
Program Manager – Court Reporters	1,2
Program Manager – Family Mediation	1,2
Senior Accountant	1,2
Senior Program Manager	1,2
Senior Program Manager – Collections	1,2
Court Attorneys	3
Probate Examiner	3
Consultant ¹	1,2

Deleted: Court Budget Analyst . . . 1,2¶
 Court Senior Accountant . . . 1,2¶
 Court Program Manager . . . 1,2¶
 . Facilities¶
 . Finance & Planning¶
 . Human Resources¶
 . Family Mediation¶
 . Fiscal¶
 . Information Technology¶
 . Collections¶
 . Branch Court¶
 . (Court Reporting)

Deleted: Senior Court Reporter . . . 1,2

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APPENDIX II: - DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

Category 1. Employees, contractors or consultants in designated classifications assigned to this disclosure category shall report their, their spouses, registered domestic partners or dependent children's interests in real property located within Ventura County or within two miles of Ventura County. Employees are not required to report a residence, such as a home or vacation cabin, used exclusively as a personal residence, unless you claim a business deduction for the residence.

Category 2. Employees, contractors or consultants in designated classifications assigned to this disclosure category shall report their, their spouses, registered domestic partners or dependent children's investments in and income from business entities engaged in the

¹The court may determine in writing that a consultant is hired to perform a limited range of duties and that the consultant is not required to comply with broad disclosure requirements. The determination shall include a description of the consultant's duties and the extent of disclosure required. The court shall file the statement with the clerk. The consultant shall comply with all other provisions of this code.

manufacture, sale, lease, or provision of supplies, materials, equipment, real property and services of the type used by this court within the past two (2) years, totaling \$2,000 or more at any time during the reporting period.

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RULE 2.06 JUDICIAL VACATION AND PERSONAL LEAVE DAYS

A. VACATION. Judicial vacation days and use are authorized consistent with California Rules of Court, rule 10.603(c)(2). A judge's vacation day is defined as follows:

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A day of vacation for a judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is an approved absence from the court for one full business day. Absences from the court listed in California Rules of Court, rule 10.603(c)(2)(H) are excluded from this definition.

B. PERSONAL LEAVE. Judicial personal leave days and use are authorized consistent with California Rules of Court, rule 10.603(c)(2)(D), in that a judge may take two personal leave days a year at anytime that is approved by the presiding judge. (Effective 7/1/07)

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RULE 9.36 COURT ORDERED CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

A. Court appointed evaluators shall abide by the requirements of Rule 5.220 Uniform Standards of Practice for Court Ordered Child Custody Evaluation in the California Rules of Court.

B. The court shall allow one peremptory challenge per party to a private, outside evaluator assigned to a case. If the parties are present for the appointment, a peremptory challenge shall be made at the time of the appointment. For parties not present at the appointment, a peremptory challenge shall be made within five (5) days after the appointment of the evaluator. Parties have no right to a peremptory challenge if an evaluator was previously assigned to the case.

C. Evaluators may petition to withdraw from a case by submitting a request in writing to the court and mailing copies to counsel for the parties. The request shall include the reason for the request and a status report on any action taken by the evaluator assigned to a case.

D. Grievance Procedure: If a party alleges that an unprofessional or inappropriate act has occurred on the part of the evaluator, he or she should bring that to the attention of the court by writing a letter to the court or through filing a motion. The court, in assessing the complaint, may ask Family Court Services to evaluate the complaint and report back to the court. Complaints regarding private child custody evaluators, who are not court employees, should also be directed to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Deleted: Complaints regarding the evaluator's performance shall be submitted to Family Court Services for review. A standard complaint form is available at Family Court Services but is not required. All submitted written complaints will receive a response by the Director of Family Court Services

E. The evaluator may initiate an ex parte communication with the court to define the scope, process and methods of the evaluation only under the provisions of Family Code section 216.

F. All child custody and visitation evaluations shall be ordered by the court and evaluators will be appointed under Evidence Code Section 730. The court may elect not to consider evaluations which have not been approved and ordered by the court.

G. A copy of the appointment of the evaluator under Evidence Code Section 730 will be made available to the court assigned evaluator. A court ordered evaluation may be limited in scope to the issues identified by the court.

H. The court relies on the judgment of its experts in making decisions about when, how often, and under what circumstances children are interviewed. The expert shall be able to justify the strategy used in any particular case.

I. Interviewing Siblings: The evaluator shall decide in his/her discretion whether interviews with siblings should be separate.

J. Any evaluation based on interviews with only one parent shall not include a recommendation regarding custody.

K. Except as otherwise ordered by the court in extraordinary circumstances, children will be informed that the information provided by the child will **not** be confidential.

L. Payment of the Evaluation: The court will order payment of the evaluation at the time of the appointment.

M. Any court ordered child custody evaluation shall be submitted to the court and counsel for the parties not less than ten (10) days before the hearing or trial.

N. For assistance in obtaining the names of child custody evaluators in Ventura County, contact the Ventura County Bar Association – Family Law Section. The Ventura County Bar Association’s telephone number is (805) 650-7599. (Revised effective 7/1/~~07~~)

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